

Remarks/Arguments

Upon entry of the accompanying amendments, claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9-22 will be pending in this application. Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9 are rejected, and claims 4 and 8 are withdrawn from consideration, in the Office Action dated June 13, 2008. Claims 4 and 8 are cancelled herein. Claims 1, 5 and 9 are amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 10-22 are newly added herein to alternatively define the present invention.

Re: Rejection of Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9

Claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by EP 1111745 A1 by Lehr et al. (hereinafter, "Lehr"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Lehr fails to disclose or suggest all elements of the claimed invention. In particular, Lehr discloses a circuit for automatically adapting to the polarity of a photo detector. However, Lehr fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, the ability to determine the particular circuit configuration of a light source, as claimed. This feature of the present invention is expressed, for example, in independent claim 1 as follows:

"gradually changing the supply voltage into a direction of the first reference voltage level;

measuring light emission of the light source while gradually changing the supply voltage into the direction of the first reference voltage level;

if no light emission is measured during the measuring step, determining that the light source is arranged in the first circuit configuration and controlling the supply voltage after the first reference voltage level has been reached; and

if a light emission is measured during the measuring step, determining that the light source is arranged in the second circuit configuration and gradually changing the supply voltage into a direction of the second reference voltage level and controlling the supply voltage after the second reference voltage level has been reached." (emphasis added)

The remaining independent claims in the application are amended (or newly added) herein to define the foregoing feature in a similar manner. Accordingly, in view of Lehr's failure to disclose or suggest all elements of the claimed invention, Applicants

submit that claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9 are patentably distinguishable over Lehr, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Re: Newly Added Claims 10-22

Claims 10-22 are newly added herein to alternatively define the present invention, and are deemed allowable for at least the same reasons presented above in conjunction with claims 1-3, 5-7 and 9. Accordingly, allowance of newly added claims 10-22 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks/arguments, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6813, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. Please charge the fee for the two added independent claims to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
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